(d) the extent to which it is correct that over 100 passengers were travelling in the sleeper coach meant to acconimo-pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. MFFER SHARIEF):
(a) *Yes,* Sir. There was an accident involving fire on a second class sleeper coach of S001 Dn. Bombay-Howrah Mail between Lotapahar and Chakra-dharpur stations of Rourkela-Chakradhar-pur section of Chakradharpur division of South Eastern Railway on 26-10-94. 29 dead bodies were taken out from the rach, 4 passengers sustained grievous injuries and 13 others suffered simple injuries in the accident.

(b) Statutory inquiry into the accident is being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle, whose Final Report is awaited.

(c) The following steps have been taken to preveni similar accidents:—

i'i) Educating the travelling public thrmif:h public address' system, news-rs, IV, radio and cinema slides, specially in regional languages, regarding dangers of carrying inflammable and explosive material on pas-senger I rains.

(ii) Apprehending passengers, haw-kers and vendors carrying inflammable materials on [he trains.

(iii) Proper maintenance of electrical devices in (he passenger coaches is ensured.

(iv) A pilot scheme called 'Instant Action Group", consisting of various staff, has been launched mainly fcr preventing unauthorised passengers en-tering reserved coaches, carriage cf suspicious anj inflammable articles and to take prompt action on complaints and grievances of passengers.

i:) Intensive checks are carried out at maintenance depot$_s$ to ensure smooth working of the alarm chain apparatus in passenger carrying trains.

tvi) Provision of fire fighting at rangements at nominated locations i railway premises and trains.

The cause and responsibility for thi fire on 800) Dn. is tinder investigatioi and will be concluded by the Commis sioner of Railway Safety. Action against railway staff held responsible, if any, wil be taken on receipt of the Final Inquiry Report.

(d) 83 passengers were travelling including RAC passengers.

Late running of No th East Egress

195. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that once famous North East Express to and from Guwahati and New Delhi has of 'ate become one of (he most neglected train in the Railway sei-up.

(b) what is the cause for regular in ordinate delay in running this train; and

to whethe,- Government would take immediate steps to regularise the train?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. lAFFER SHARIEF) : fa) to (c). The punctuality of 5621/ 5622 North-East Express has .been affected in the recent past due to various reasons particularly the following:

(i) speed restrictions for the entire Assam region for security reasons,

(ii) detention of trains at Gossai-gaonhat station by the Government of Assam for medical check-up of the incoming passengers on account °f outbreak of plague in different parts of the country,

(iii) non-interlocked working at Guwahati in connection with the conversion of Guwahati-Lumding section into Broad Gauge,

liv) single line system prevailing on ^{B}r?3fjer Railway,

(v) accidents, alarm-chain-pulling and equipment failures.

All efforts including intensive chasing and round the clock monitoring are being made to improve the punctuality of this train.

Frequency of Guwahati Rajtiiiuiii Express

196. SHRI BHADRHSWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

: .1! whether Government are aware that the weekly Guwahati Rajdhani Express is not at all sufficient for travelling public of the entire North-Fast region:

(I) whether Government are contemplating [o increase its. frequency at least to thrice a week in the near future; and

tc) wha| are the reasons for stopping Guwahati Rajdhanj Express at Patna while iv\o ether Rajdhanj Expresses have already stoppage at Patna?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRi C. K. JAFl'i-.R Sii.iKitij : (a) Some passengers remain on the waiting list of Guwahati Rajdhanj Express,

(h) The proposal to increase the frequency of New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express di, ring 1995-96 is being examined and action as found feasible ar..J justified will by taken.

(c) Fo$_r$ the convenience of the passengers travelling between Patna and N.F Slates.

Grant if HRA & CCA to railway employees

197. SLRf A. NALLASIVAN : Will the Minis,er o. Railways be pleased lo state:

(a) whether it is a faq that the Railway Board had issued order in their memo. No. E (P&A)II'95|MEA[CCA!5 '•ted 3!«< May, 1994 restoring grant °f HRA and CCA as of B-I Class City as special case for railway employees working in Kamptee, Nagpur;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Genera} Manager, Khidirpore, Calcutta has not forwarded the Railway Board Memo, DRM, SER. Nagpur and the Kamptee Railway employees has not received Eh henefit of railway board orders; and

(c) }he reasons for delay in forwarding the Railway Board Memo to DRM, SER, Nagpur by GM, SER, Khidirpore, Calcutta and action taken to implement the orders?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS l&HRl C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir. Railway Board vide letter No. l:(I'A:A)lii94$_{l}$'HRAjCCAJ5 dated .'i'i May, 1994 have allowed, as a special case, that in respect of those railway employees who are posted in (hat pari of Kamptee (UA) which was earlier pari o. Nagpur (UAL HRA/CCA will co$_u$. tinus io be applicable ai (he same raies (i.e. B-F' class rales).

(b) and (c). (he information is being collected and will be laid on (he Table of the House.

introduction of non-stop rain between Hovvrah and Bombay

198. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI; Will the Miniser of RAILWAYS be pleased to sjate :

(a) whether any steps arc being taken to introduce ncn-stop train$_s$ between Howrah and Bombay, Howrah and New-Delhi and Bombay and New Delhi;

(b) it so. the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay to introduce sucii trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C K. IAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c>. No, Sir. Introduction of non-slop trains is operationally not feasible a$_s$ some stoppage (s) will have to be provided for operational reasons like change of crew, watering, etc.